

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01967 011822Z

67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 040925

R 011545Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2936  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
USNMR SHAPE FOR INTAF  
CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

S E C R E T ATHENS 1967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MOPS, GR

SUBJ: GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP ON TURKISH FRONTIER

1. FOLLOWING REPORT FROM CONSUL GENERAL BRENNAN IN THESSALONIKI CONFIRMS RECENT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. EMBASSY'S VIEW IS THAT THESE GREEK MOVES ARE OF A CONTINGENCY NATURE DESIGNED TO IMPRESS THE TURKS THAT GREEK CLAIMS TO THE AEGEAN ARE SERIOUS AND TO RALLY THE GREEK MILITARY BEHIND THE REGIME.

QTE "1. DURING JUST-COMPLETED ROUTINE ANNUAL VISIT TO EASTERN MACEDONIA AND WESTERN THRACE, BUILD-UP OF GREEK MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT ON TURKISH FRONTIER (EVROS AREA) UNMISTAKABLE. RELEVANT ITEMS:

(A) DURING MY COURTESY CALL IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS MARCH 27, COMMANDER OF 12TH DIVISION, GENERAL AGAMEMNON GRATZIOS, WHOM I KNEW WELL DURING HIS THESSALONIKI TOUR, VISIBLY JUMPED WHEN I INQUIRED IN PASSING AS TO WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY REFLECTION OF AEGEAN ISSUE WITHIN HIS AREA. HE PARRIED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 01967 011822Z

QUESTION, SAYING ONLY THAT HIS SENIOR BATTALION COMMANDER

STILL MEETING WEEKLY AT EVROS BRIDGE WITH OPPOSITE TURKISH NUMBER, AND NORMAL RADIO CONTACTS MAINTAINED WITH FACING TURKISH UNITS. HE ALSO POSED NO OBJECTION (WHICH HE COULD HAVE) TO MY CALL ON COMMANDER OF 99TH MILITARY COMMAND IN DIDIMOTICHON (BRIGADIER GENERAL TRIANDAFYLLOS PAPAZOIS), A REGULAR STOP ON MY EASTERN TRIPS. HE MADE NO MENTION OF PRESENCE IN AREA, AND SPECIFICALLY DIDIMOTICHON, OF GENERAL BONOTIS (REF 1).

(B) DURING CALL ON GENERAL PAPAZOIS FOLLOWING MORNING, 99TH COMMAND COMPOUND IN STATE OF ACTIVITY NOT SEEN ON PREVIOUS VISITS, AND TWO GENERAL OFFICER VEHICLES NOTED WITHIN AREA (BOTH WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL PLAQUES). SUBJECT OF INCREASED ACTIVITY NOT REPEAT NOT RAISED WITH PAPAZOIS WHO PREFERRED DISCUSS AREA'S HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE RATHER THAN MILITARY MATTERS, INCLUDING HIS OWN CAREER.

(C) THROUGHOUT TRIP ALEXANDROUPOLIS-DIDIMOTICHON-ORESTIAS AND RETURN MARCH 28, PASSAGE OF UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF MILITARY VEHICLES, INCLUDING JEEPS, STAFF CARS, TRUCKS, COMMUNICATIONS VANS, ETC., NOTED, AS OPPOSED TO PAST TWO YEARS. FURTHERMORE, MILITARY VEHICLE PARKS WHICH IN PAST HAVE BEEN QUIET AND SEMI-FILLED, WERE THIS TIME HUMMING WITH ACTIVITY AND FULL OF ROLLING STOCK. (MAY BE ONLY COINCIDENCE THAT VEHICLE PARKS IN THESSALONIKI AREA, SUCH AS 20TH ARMORED, APPEAR SOMEWHAT DEPLETED OF NORMAL MILITARY HARDWARE.)

(D) LUNCH WITH ORESTIAS MAYOR IN TOWN CENTER RESTAURANT MARCH 28 INTERRUPTED BY RUMBLING PASSAGE OF DUSTY CONVOY PROCEEDING NORTH, INCLUDING TWO TRACKED AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND TWO HEAVY TANKS. MAYOR'S NERVOUS VOLUNTARY REMARK THAT EQUIPMENT "PROBABLY" AROUND FOR "HOLIDAY PARADE" (MARCH 25) ONLY SERVED TO UNDERSCORE UNUSUAL ASPECT THIS PRESENCE.

(E) ON RETURN TRIP TO ALEXANDROUPOLIS SAME DAY, NEW POTHOLES NOTED IN MANY PLACES, DUE OSTENSIBLY TO USAGE BY HEAVY TRACKED EQUIPMENT, WHOSE TREAD MARKS VISIBLE IN SOFTER  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ATHENS 01967 011822Z

HARDTOP SURFACES. (POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THESE DUE TO FARM EQUIPMENT, ALTHOUGH SAME MARKS NOT SEEN IN OTHER NEARBY AREAS WHERE HEAVY AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES IN GREATER USE.)

(F) EARLY MORNING OF MARCH 29 UNIDENTIFIED GREEK ARMY COLONEL IN FIELD UNIFORM AND FULL BATTLE KIT INCLUDING HELMET AND SIDE ARMS OBSERVED BUSTLING FROM OUR ALEXANDROUPOLIS

HOTEL INTO WAITING JEEP.

(G) ON MARCH 29, RETURNING TO THESSALONIKI VIA KOMOTINI AND KAVALA, FREQUENT PASSAGE OF INDIVIDUAL MILITARY VEHICLES AND SMALL CONVOYS (3 OR 4 UNITS), INCLUDING ONE GENERAL STAFF CAR, OBSERVED ALONG ROUTE, ALL HEADING EAST.

2. IN CONTRAST THIS UNUSUAL MILITARY ACTIVITY IN 12TH DIVISION AREA, 11TH DIVISION AREA AROUND KAVALA AND FACING BULGARIA SEEMED CALM. ITS COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL CONSTANTINOS KORKAS, ON MARCH 26 WAS IN FACT ENGAGED FROM NOON TO FOUR IN ARRANGING AND HAVING LUNCH FOR ME, OCEANIC EXPLORATION'S DIRECTOR AND OUR RESPECTIVE WIVES.

3. WHILE NOT ALL OF ABOVE OBSERVATIONS MAY BE GERMANE, MY GENERAL CONCLUSION IS THAT GREEKS HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR MILITARY POSTURE ON TURKISH FRONTIER IN REACTION TO AEGEAN ISSUE. PRECISE EXTENT OF BUILD-UP IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE FROM SUCH CASUAL OBSERVATION, BUT INCREASED ACTIVITY AS OPPOSED TO PREVIOUS YEARS' VISITS IS HIGHLY, AND PERHAPS INEVITABLY, VISIBLE. NONETHELESS, GREEK MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES IN AREA OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING MASK SITUATION TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, AND PLAY IT LOW KEY. PROBABLY WORTH STATING THAT UNITS CLEARLY NOT REPEAT NOT BEING DEPLOYED TOWARD BULGARIAN FRONTIER IN 11TH AND 12TH DIVISION AREAS. TO THE CONTRARY, ASSUMPTION THAT BUILD-UP RELATED TO AEGEAN CONFRONTATION SEEMS SUPPORTED BY GENERAL GRATZIOS' KNEE-JERK REACTION MARCH 27. UNQTE  
BRANDIN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, MILITARY POLICIES, BOUNDARY CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ATHENS01967  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740072-0223  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740479/aaaacuai.tel  
**Line Count:** 144  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP ON TURKISH FRONTIER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, MOPS, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005